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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 SS-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-01

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R 241330Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1653

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2805

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SP
SUBJ: BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES THE MAIN POINTS OF SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS ON THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS THIS WEEK BETWEEN THE DCM AND PERINAT OF THE MFA AND THE DCM AND GENERAL GUTIERREZ MELLADO. MOST NOTEWORTHY WERE THE RELATIVE EMPHASIS PERINAT PLACED ON NATO AND FACILITIES AND GUTIERREZ MELLADO ON MATERIAL ASSISTANCE AND FACILITIES, THE FACT THAT BOTH INDICATED FLEXIBILITY ON INDIVIDUAL ISSUES IN THE CONTEXT OF A DESIRE FOR A TOTAL PACKAGE THAT WOULD SATISFY PUBLIC OPINION, AND THE FACT THAT BOTH INDIIQTED THE TANKERS COULD RENWUN IN COUNTRY IF MOVED AWAY FROM POPULATION CENTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. EMPHASIS. BOTH RECOGNIZED THAT A BILATERAL SECURITY GUARANTEE WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. WITH THIS IN MIND, PERINAT'S EMPHASIS WAS ON A NATO LINK AND REDUCTION OF FACILITIES. HE DID NOT EXPECT MUCH IN TERMS OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, IN VIEW OF PRESUMED U.S. FUNDING LIMITATIONS. IN CONTRAST, BUTIERREZ MELLADO SAID LITTLE ABOUT A POSSIBLE NATO LINK, AND PLACED CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO STRESSED REDUCTION
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OF FACILITIES. (PERINAT INDICATED THAT AT LEAST SOME

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OF THE MILITARY HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT NATO BECAUSE OF
THE PRESUMED EVENTUAL COST OF SPANISH PARTICIPATION.)

3. REATIOALE. BOTH EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO BE RESPON-
SIVE TO PUBLIC OPINION. BUT WITH DIFFERENT NUANCES.
PERINAT TALKED OF REDUCING THE LEVEL OF RISK TO WHICH
SPAIN PRESUMABLY WAS EXPOSED BY THE U.S. PRESENCE TO A
LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH THE DEGREE OF SECURITY GUARANTEE
AND OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS IT RECEIVED. GUTIERREZ MELLADO
TALKED IN TERMS OF A SUFFICIENT AVERAGE LEVEL OF U.S.
RESPONSE TO SPANISH DESIRES TO CONVENCE PUBLIC OPINION
THAT SPAIN WAS GETTNG A REASONABLE RETURN FOR THE
FACILITIES PROVIDED. BOTH AGREED THERE WAS A BASIC
UNDERLYING SPANISH SECURITY RATIONALE FOR A CONTINUED
DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S., BUT THEY DID NOT
SEE THE INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THIS THOUGHT AND THE
CONCEPT THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD EITHER DO MORE
FOR SPAIN IN SOME WAY OR HAVE REDUCED FACILITIES. WHEN
FACED WITH THIS INCONSISTENCY, GUTIERREZ MELLADO SIMPLY
ARGUED THAT WHILE HE WELL UNDERSTOOD THE SECUIRYT
IMPERATIVE, THE PUBLIC FOCUSSED MORE ON THE BALANCE
BETWEEN FACILITIES PROVIDED AND U.S. OR NATO ACCOMMO-
DATIONS WITH RESPECT TO A SECURITY GUARANTEE, SPAINH
INVOLVEMENT IN WESTERN DEFENSE PLANNING (PLANS FOR
WHICH HE SAID WERE BEGINNING TO LOOK QUITE GOOD),
AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE.

4. FLEXIBILITY. BOTH INDICATED THAT NO ONE POINT WAS
A SINE QUA NON BOTH STRESSED AN ADEQUATE TOTAL PACKAGE.

5. NATO. PERINAT SAID HE WAS AWARE NATO MEMBERSHIP
WAS NOT IN THE CARDS, BUT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT SOME
MEANINGFUL AND PUBLIC RELATIONSHIP COULD BE ACHIEVED.
HE HOPED WHATEVER WAS DECIDED WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BY LUNS
OR HAIG. HE ALSO SAID, AS ROVIRA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR,
THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER PLANNED TO MAKE A DEMARCHE
TO NATO AMBASSADORS NEXT WEEK. HE INDICATED THAT THE
PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED.

6. REDUCTION OF FACILITIES. PERINAT STRESSED BOTH
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TORREJON AND THE NUCLEAR PRESENCE AT ROTA. GUTIERREZ
MELLADO MENTIONED BOTH, BUT SEEMED TO PLACE MORE EMPHASIS
ON THE NUCLEAR PRESENCE. INTERESTINGLY, NEITHER INSISTED
THAT THE TANKERS WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE SPAIN. BOTH SAID
IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT SIMPLY TO MOVE THEM AWAY FROM
HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE ACCIDENT
DANGERS. PERINAT SAID, SURPRISINGLY, THAT THE POSITIONS
ON MOVING THE TANKERS OUT OF SPAIN WAS AN AIR FORCE

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POSITION. HE THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE MOVED TO ROTA.
HE WOULD NOT FAVOR MOVEMENT TO MORON, BECAUSE SEVILLE
WAS CLOSE, BUT GUTIERREZ MELLADO SUGGESTED MORON AS
ONE POSSIBILITY.

7. MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. GUITERREZ MELLADO SAID THE
MILITARY WAS TENTATIVELY BUDGETING ABOUT FOUR BILLION
DOLLARS FOR EQUIPMENT OVER FOUR YEARS, BUT THIS WAS
ONLY ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF WHAT IT NEEDED. IT WOULD NOT
ASK FOR GRANTS, BUT DID WANT CREDIT AND GOOD PRICES.
HE GAVE A LENGTHY JUSTIFICATION OF THIS TYPE OF
ASSISTANCE. AT ONE POINT, HE INDICATED SUCH ASSISTANCE
DID NOT ALL HAVE TO COME FROM THE U.S. GERMANY, FOR
INSTANCE, MIGHT PROVIDE SOME.

8. IN CONVERSATION APRIL 21 WITH AMBASSADOR, MINISTER
OF PRESIDENCY CARRO MARTINEZ (WHO IS VERY CLOSE TO ARIAS)
RAISED US-SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS AT HIS INITIATIVE AND MADE
CLEAR THAT GOS UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WAS NO CHANCE THAT
US CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE A BILATERAL SECURITY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE US. HE LAID PRINCIPAL STRESS ON
US NEED TO SHOW "GENEROSITY AND COMPENSATION" TO OFFSET
VALUE TO U.S. OF ITS FACILITIES IN SPAIN. SPAIN NEEDED
HELP IN MODERNIZING ITS ARMED FORCES AND THIS WOULD HAVE
TO INCLUDE CREDITS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE FOR ACQUISITION
OF UP-TO-DATE EQUIPMENT. CARRO MARTINEZ REFERRED NEITHER
TO LEVEL OF US FACILITIES NOR TO DEFENSE LINK WITH NATO,
ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR DID MENTION US EFFORTS WITH RESPECT
TO LATTER.
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